

Day 1

Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem" (Mt. 20:18)



Arrival in Ben Gurion Airport. Meet, assist and transfer by special motor coach to our hotel in Jerusalem. Special welcome dinner and overnight.

Day 2

"On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives" (Zechariah 14:4)



We begin this day after breakfast, driving to the top of the Mount of Olives, for a majestic view over all of ancient and modern Jerusalem, the center of the biblical world. We visit the Chapel of the Ascension, the Paternoster Church and the Chapel of Dominus Flevis (Jesus wept) before walking down the "Palm Sunday Road" to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations where Christ prayed on the night of His betrayal (Luke 22:40-46). Next this day we visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (Palace of Caiaphas), the Upper Room, the Dormition Abbey and the Tomb of King David on Mount Zion. Finally this day we visit Bethlehem, city of David, to visit the birthplace of Jesus which is marked by the Basilica of the Nativity and to kneel at the place of his birth in the Grotto of the Nativity. We visit also the Field of the Shepherds where the Angel of the Lord proclaimed the good news of the birth of the Saviour (Luke 2:8-18) and drive to Jerusalem passing Rachel's Tomb enroute.

Day 3

Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city" (Zech. 8:3)



Today is a walking tour within the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, visiting the Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the man who had been crippled for 38 years (John 2:2-9), and the Church of St. Anne where there is an opportunity to sing a hymn before walking along the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) from Pilate's Judgment Hall to the empty tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Next we walk over the Temple Mount and visit the Western (Wailing) Wall – the most holy shrine for the Jewish people. We end the day with a visit to the Tower of David Museum.

Day 4

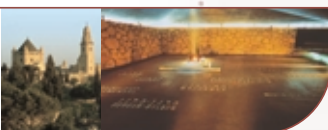
"The wilderness becomes a fruitful field" (Es. 32:5)



This morning we depart from Jerusalem, driving through the Judean Desert and along the shores of the Dead Sea to visit the Mountain Fortress of Massada, the site of the last Jewish resistance against the Romans in 73 AD. Ascent and descent by cable car. Next there will be an opportunity to bathe in the waters of the Dead Sea – the lowest spot on the face of Earth, followed by a visit to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written over 2000 years ago. Returning to Jerusalem we shall visit a Bedouin camp and enjoy a desert camel ride. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 5

"Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to the city of Judah" (Luke 1:39)



**HD** We start our day driving through the New City of Jerusalem via the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) to the Yad Vashem memorial, to the victims of the Holocaust. Our next stop is at Ein Karem the city in the hills of Juda to visit the Church of the Visitation, which by tradition is built over the House of Zacharias, where the Virgin Mary came to visit Elisabeth (Luke 1:39-40). Here John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ was born.

Day 6

"Whoever is fearful and trembling let him return home" (Judges 7:3)



After checking out of our hotel, we depart Jerusalem and drive down through the Judean Desert, passing by the Mt. of Temptation, to visit Jericho, the most ancient city in the world. We also stop at a Sycamore tree of the kind Zaccheus climbed in-order to see Jesus. Next we continue our drive northwards through the Jordan Valley to the excavations of the ancient Israelite city of Beit Shean. In New Testament times it became one of the 10 cities of the Decapolis. After the visit to this extensive site we drive on and before checking into our hotel we shall have an opportunity to visit a baptismal site by the River Jordan. Dinner and overnight.



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Day 7

"He was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret" (Luke 5:1)



The Sea of Galilee is rich in memories of the three years of Jesus' Ministry around its shores. We begin this day with a boat ride from Tiberias to Capernaum, where Jesus dwelt after he left Nazareth and did many signs and wonders, we visit the ancient synagogue and the nearby House of Peter. We drive on around the shores of the Sea of Galilee to visit the Chapel of the Primacy (Mensa Christi), the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes and the nearby Mount of Beatitudes from the top of which there is a wonderful panoramic view over the Sea of Galilee. Next we drive up to the Golan Heights passing by the ghost town of Kuneitra enroute, and stop at the Tel Dan, which was the north most town in biblical Israel (hence the saying "from Dan to Beersheba"). Returning to Tiberias we stop (time permitting) in Safed (Zefat), the capital of the Upper Galilee which was occupied by the Crusaders as well as the Moslems and is known to be the home to the Jewish Cabbalists. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 8

"Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5)



This morning we set off from our hotel, driving into the beautiful landscape of Lower Galilee, the scene of much of Christ's ministry, and the home of many of his disciples. We stop in Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2:1-11) after which we continue to Nazareth, a town in the hill country of Galilee where Jesus grew to manhood. Here we shall visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and the Synagogue Church. Before returning to our hotel, we take time to see the so-called "Jesus Boat" a fishing boat of the kind used by the disciples of Jesus before returning to our hotel in the early afternoon.

Day 9

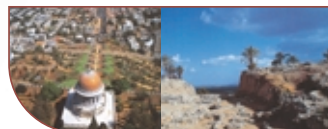
"This is my beloved son" (Mt. 17:5)



This morning we depart the Sea of Galilee and drive to the foot of Mt. Tabor, the Mount of the Transfiguration (Matth. 17:1-8) and drive up the Mount by special cars. From the top of the Mount there is a wonderful panoramic view which extends from Mt. Hermon in the north to the Hills of Samaria in the south. Next we continue our drive through the Lower Galilee to visit Sepphoris which was the most important city in Galilee during the first 4 centuries AD, the seat of renowned Hebrew Academies, and the home of eminent Talmudic scholars. Arrival in the city of Akko (New Testament Ptolemais), one of the oldest seaports of the ancient world dating back to Caananite period more than 4,000 ago. We check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 10

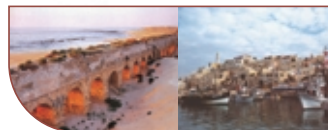
"The Lord, He is God" (1 King 18:39)



After breakfast tour of the Old Walled city of Akko with its extensive remains from the time of the Crusaders who ruled in Akko for some 200 years. We also visit the Jezzar Pasha Mosque. Then depart Akko and drive southwards to Haifa where we drive past the Persian Gardens dominated by the golden dome of the Bahai Shrine and continue along Mt. Carmel and the Druze villages to visit the "Place of Sacrifice" where the Prophet Elijah challenged the Priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:17-40). Our next stop is at Megiddo, the Harmageddon of the Book of Revelations. Megiddo was one of the chariot cities of King Solomon and guarded one of the most important caravan routes of the ancient world, the "Via Maris". Christian tradition has it that the final great battle of the world will be fought here. We arrive in Tel Aviv in the late afternoon and check in to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 11+12

"Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34)



Morning tour to the ruins of the ancient city of Caesarea Maritima which was built by King Herod and later became the seat of government of the Roman governors including Pontius Pilate who sat in judgment on Jesus Christ and sentenced him to be crucified. Visit the extensive excavations of the site including the harbor, the Crusader City, the amphitheatre, the hippodrome and the Roman aquaduct. Return to the hotel. The afternoon is free.

**On day 12 - DEPARTURE**

After breakfast, we set off from our hotel and drive to Ben Gurion Airport for our homebound flight.

HD